

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): An isolated choline monooxygenase gene encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 6.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (c) or (d):

(c) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5;

(d) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, 3 or 5, and which encodes a protein having choline monooxygenase activity.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 2.

Claim 5 (Original): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 4.

Claim 6 (Original): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase, comprising culturing the transformant according to claim 5 and recovering the choline monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): An isolated gene encoding a peptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:17.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An isolated gene comprising the following DNA (g) or (h):

- (g) the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 16;
- (h) a nucleotide sequence which has 97% homology with the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:16 and which encodes a protein having signal peptide activity.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim 6 or 7 and a gene of interest.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim 8, wherein the isolated gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant metabolite.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The recombinant vector according to claim 8, wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite confers stress resistance to high salt conditions, drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

Claim 11 (Original): The recombinant vector according to claim 10, wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

*12*  
Claim *14* (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim *10*.

*13* *12*  
Claim *15* (Original): The transformant according to claim *14*, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

*14*  
Claim *16* (Currently Amended): An environmental stress resistant A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim *12* or *13* under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

*15* *14*  
Claim *17* (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim *16*, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

Claims 18-22 (Cancelled).

*16*  
Claim *23* (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene according to claim *3*.

*17*  
Claim *24* (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim *23*.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A method for producing a choline monooxygenase,  
comprising culturing the transformant according to claim 24 and recovering the choline  
monooxygenase from the resultant culture.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A recombinant vector comprising the isolated gene  
according to claim 7 and a gene of interest.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim 19,  
wherein the gene of interest leads to production of a polypeptide or production of a plant  
metabolite.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The recombinant vector according to claim 19,  
wherein the polypeptide or the plant metabolite stress resistance to high salt conditions,  
drought conditions or both in a tobacco plant.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The recombinant vector according to claim 19,  
wherein the gene of interest is *Chenopodium album* choline monooxygenase gene.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector  
according to claim 20.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector  
according to claim 21.

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<sup>25</sup>  
Claim <sup>32</sup> (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim <sup>28</sup>.

<sup>26</sup>  
Claim <sup>33</sup> (Previously Presented): A transformant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim <sup>29</sup>.

<sup>27</sup>  
Claim <sup>34</sup> (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>30</sup>, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>28</sup>  
Claim <sup>35</sup> (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>31</sup>, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>29</sup>  
Claim <sup>36</sup> (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>32</sup>, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>30</sup>  
Claim <sup>37</sup> (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>33</sup>, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>31</sup>  
Claim <sup>38</sup> (Previously Presented): The transformant according to claim <sup>34</sup>, which is a plant body, plant organ, plant tissue or cultured plant cell.

<sup>32</sup>  
Claim <sup>39</sup> (Currently Amended): An environmental stress-resistant A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim <sup>13</sup> under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

33  
Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The plant according to claim 39, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.

34  
Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 3, which is (c).

35  
Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 3, which is (d).

36  
Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 6, which is (g).

37  
Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The isolated gene according to claim 9, which is (h).

38  
Claim 45 (New): A tobacco plant which is obtained by culturing or cultivating a transformed plant comprising the recombinant vector according to claim 13 under an environmental stress of high salt conditions, drought conditions or both.

39  
Claim 46 (New): The plant according to claim 45, wherein the environmental stress is high salt stress.